IN THIS NUMBER

MESA SAXIFRAGE
BARNHART REDIVIVUS
BALBOA PARK BOTANICAL BUILDING
BERRIED SHRUBS SHOW AT FLORAL
HOME, DECEMBER 8 AND 9
NO REGULAR MEETINGS IN DEC.

NOV. 1923 TEN CENTS

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The California Garden

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NEWS OF OUTDOORS FOR EVERYBODY

Mesa Saxifrage

I remember reading once a discussion by John Burroughs as to what was the earliest wild flower of spring. The mesa saxifrage, of San Diego, called Saxifraga parryi by the botanists, is the earliest wild flower that I know of. It does not wait for spring. It comes two weeks after the first autumn rain. It even blooms before we have a drop of rain. If any other plant can beat that let it present its credentials.

I have marvelled at this little plant for many years and for ten years have recorded in my Nature Diary the first blossom which I have seen. 1914 after the first rain of October 3, eight-tenths of an inch, the first record-breaking rain of September 30, an inch and a fifth, the first blossom was seen on October 13. This season, 1923, we had a slight sprinkle of rain, only two-hundredths of an inch, on September 12. On October 6 I found a single long-stemmed bloom on a dry hillside at Pacific Beach among tall grasses. The ground was as dry as dust. On October 7, our first real rain of the season came with three-tenths of an inch. On October 20, in Balboa Park, on the hillside south of the lion's den, I saw scores of short-stemmed plants just opening into bloom. It is evident that a third of an inch of rain will bring this plant into bloom in about two weeks.

But this is not all. In 1915 I found a few tall blossoms on dry hillsides on October 24. Not a drop of rain had yet fallen. Again in 1916 I found a bloom on September 30, after a rain of the 29th. Last season, 1922, I found a flower on October 31, after a sprinkle of one-tenth of an inch on October 27. Of course the plant cannot bloom in a day or two after a rain. The explanation seems to be that if we have several days of thick fog in the autumn enough moisture penetrates to the roots of some of the largest plants to bring them into bloom. Smaller plants wait for the first rain.

How can any plant put forth a blossom in soil as dry as summer dust? Dig up a blooming saxifrage and you will see. Its root is a corm, bulb-like, full of water and food stored from the previous season. The children often dig them up and eat them, calling them "cocoanuts." No doubt the San Diego Indians included them among the wild hyacinths and mariposa lilies which they dug for food. The bulb-like root lives for several years, throwing up a blossom and building a new corm over the old one every year.

Two weeks after the heavy rain of September 30, 1921, I noticed hundreds of tiny plants coming up. Some of the bulblets were hardly bigger than a pinhead. They were seedlings of the year. Larger ones were probably last year's seedlings. These little plants did not bloom last season. They were growing their one leaf. The plants which bloomed put forth a flower stalk only. Not until the plant has produced seed does it send up its single reddish-brown leaf which lies flat on the ground to manufacture food for next year's precocious blossom.

This little flower, adapted to life in a semi-arid land to a marvellous degree, seldom noticed until great numbers are in bloom, is very delicate and beautiful when minutely observed. Its flower stalk from three to eight inches high is lavender-gray, covered with fine hairs. Its blossom, about three-eights of an inch across, is white, prettily veined above and beneath with purple. The lines continue down the hairy gray sepals. The yellow stigma, deeply two-cleft, stands far above the short gray stamens so as to be sure of being pollenized by some insect.

The Mesa Saxifrage

My heart must ever leap
At this first happy meeting,
Earliest of wild flowers greeting
From your long summer sleep.

One fortnight since the rains
And your white stars are shining!
Where southbound birds are dining
On the October plains.

Are you not fearful lest
The clouds bring you scant measure?
Bravely you risk your treasure
On the wide mesa's breast.

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SALIENT FEATURES OF NEXT MONTH'S WEATHER

By Dean Blake, Meteorologist, Weather Bureau.

December may be said to mark the beginning of the stormy season in Southern California. Precipitation, as a rule, is more frequent, and is often accompanied by moderate gales, or winds from 30 to 40 miles per hour. In the city we may reasonably expect five or six days with measurable rain, and, unless the season is abnormally deficient, the fall is heavy enough to supplant irrigation.

The mornings are apt to have a "snap" to them, and frost danger to tender plants and shrubs becomes more acute in the canyons and on the floor of the valleys even near the coast. In contrast to the cool nights, the days are usually pleasant as there is much bright, cloudless weather when the temperature and wind is mild and balmy and the sunshine adequate. Hot, dessicating winds, characteristic of the fall, are extremely rare after the middle of the month, the land breeze usually taking the form of a cold wind.

THE BUG PROBLEM SIMPLIFIED

Wash Your Plants With Lux!

We are all agreed that the many "bugs" in the garden take most of the fun and more of the profit out of the raising of crops. The big caterpillars whose work can be seen are easily traced and killed with arsenic poisons. The little green "worms", white flies, leaf hoppers, colored aphids, and other sucking bugs are more numerous and more deadly. Many are the smelly liquids and powders of soaps, oils, nicotine, hellebore, and other deadly compounds that must be sprayed on. Some stain the foliage or fruit, or are unsafe on plants used as food. New compounds have appeared on the market recently that are not unpleasant or dangerous, but they are none too effective, and expensive for large areas.

Since soap kills most of these small insects by suffocating them, any soap is useful. The difficulty is to get a solution sufficiently strong to make a thick suds and free from acids and alkalis that would injure vegeattion. The soap powders dissolve readily and one that will not injure silks and woollens should not hurt green vegetation.

Of the powdered soaps I have tried Lux with great success. One-half a package in two gallons of warm water, well dissolved, fills my sprayer and does the trick. I have used it on currant worms, on roses for aphids and hopper, on house plants for scales and white fly (dip the tops into the suds and rinse), and on tent caterpillars in the nest. In all cases the bugs kick a little and become defunct. I am looking for more worms, as cabbage worm and cucumber beetle. Mine shall be a bugless garden this year. As in all contact poisons, you must hit the bug with the soap or he escapes. Neither youngest leaf nor flower petal is injured, and a clean sweet odor lingers over the roses and currants. Try Lux and report.—From House Beautiful.

SHOW OF BERRIED SHRUBS AND SEEDPODS

There will be a show of berried snrubs and seedpods in the Floral Association Building in Balboa Park the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9. All those having specimens are requested to bring them on Saturday morning. This will be the fourth show held in this building since its opening and the attendance is steadily on the increase.

Look through our advertising columns and find where you can get roses. No need to go outside for stock. Outsiders come here to have new varieties sized up by our only Benard and next month we hope to start a new series of his unique articles.

Why not write your garden experiences for us?

STRAY THOUGHTS

Palms

When an irresistible impulse seizes me to travel to the Islands of the Sea, to see the tropical luxuriance, as it is found where the Kentia Palm abounds, I don't go for the good reason, that my bank account will not permit the indulgence of the desire.

Instead of spending a lot of money to make the long journey, I jump into the Fliver—and great is the Fliver—and drive to Montebello, a thriving little city six miles east of my home, where is located the Palm producing establishment of Roy F. Wilcox.

Acres of land are covered with lath houses, in which are growing: well to run true to California form; I will say a million plants in all stages of development. To be sure the number named is only a guess. It is a question in my mind whether Wilcox himself knows the exact number.

And what a grand scene those Palms present to the lover of plant life. May be there are more growing on Lord Howe Island in the South Pacific, its native habitat, but I doubt it.

Anyway they cannot be more vigorous, more luxuriant, nor happier where they grow wild, than they are in this land of their adoption, California.

About ten carloads of them will be ready to ship to Eastern markets along about April first next. Yes, and there are to be four more acres covered with lath this season, in which to plant thousands of young stock, to grow on for future sales.

Let no one imagine that to grow Kentias or any other sort of Palm is child's play.

It takes six years, from the sowing of the seed, to grow a plant to salable size; say four feet tall. That costs money. Moreover, the fellow who enters the game must have great business ability during those years, if he is to keep out of the hands of the sheriff.

The soil in that particular locality is of such character, that little artificial fertilizer is necessary to produce the luxuriant dark green foliage, which abounds under those lath houses.

No scale pests, no brown spots on the pinnae of the myriads of plants there. They are perfect. Oh! the beauty of the enchanting scene.

Grasses

Arrhenantherum bulbosum variegatum.

I wonder that the plant has survived such a long name. It is a narrow leaved "ribbon grass"—green and very white striped. To be sure there are other "ribbon grasses," but this one is different, as the first specific name will indicate. Little bulbs grow at the base of the leaves. It comes to us from the Mediterranian sections of Europe, and for that reason I am giving it a tryout. I paid a local nurseryman two-fifty for a clump, and divided it into one hundred sections, all of which are growing. Brethren of The Garden when in town next season come to see what this foreigner will do towards beautifying the landscape.

Another grass which I met with in Florida last January is named Tricholena rosea. The common name of this one is Natal grass. As the specific name suggests, the color of the seed bearing tops is red. I may say that a field of it in full bloom is unsurpassed for beauty. A glowing rose color, and when swayed with the wind, it looks like a sea of coral.

As it grows with me this season, the flowering is a perpetual performance. To be sure it gets water every ten days. If any of the readers of The Garden care to try it, a self addressed stamped envelope will bring them some of the seeds.

Berried Shrubs

Pittosporum revolutum. An Australian subject. The flowers are pale yellow, and odorless. It is the capsules of seeds which are brilliant scarlet when they burst open at this time of year, and so remain for months. Why this species has escaped the attention of landscape artists is one of the mysterious things of the profession. The species with sweet scented flowers and the one with small golden colored capsules, are common, but the one under discussion is rarely met with.

When up the coast last season, for the first time did I see the scrubby species of Honeysuckle Lonicera Morrowii. It was in full fruit, and what a gorgeous sight it was. The fruit is a brilliant red, borne in long peduncles like those of the red currant, but much more brilliant in color than that of red currants. I shall give it a tryout with one plant in a shaded location, with an abundance of water. If any reader of these lines cares to do the same thing, and wish to know where to get the shrub, along about the first of next year, if they will send a post card, I shall be pleased to forward it to the nurserymen. I don't know the price. Certainly not over a dollar. The strange thing about the nursery business on this coast is, that the owners of such establishments do not let the planting public know what they have to sell.

The firm who makes the brand of soap which preserves "that school girl complexion" never let up in their campaign to keep the "girls" informed about the virtue of their product. There are an increasing number of plant enthusiasts in this state, who have a fervid desire to experiment, and it would be good business to keep a small stock of rare things on hand, and advertise it.

The scheme would be threefold in its benefits. Nurserymen would make a profit on that

class of stock, and it would be the means of selling other trees and plants.

The publication carrying such advertising matter would benefit by it, and last, but not least, the plant enthusiast would be made happy, and if the experiment proved a success, the landscape would be improved in appearance.

This, however, is a digression from what I started out to write about when I began this article.

Herbaceous Plants

One of the new introductions in that class is a Gaillardia, named Portola. It is such a great improvement on the original type of this species of plant, that, when once known, the old form will be entirely discarded. The stems on which the flowers are born are long and wiry; the color of the flower is very much more brilliant than those of the type.

Gynura aurantiaca—Velvet plant is the name some folks who are too indolent to learn the proper name, apply to this one. It has a coat of violet purple hairs, and when planted in partial shade it is gorgeous in appearance. It is not a new thing, but a very much neglected old one, which should have a place in every garden in Southern California.

Then there is Lopezia rosea and alba which for clean foliage, and floriferousness has few equals, and no superiors. Mine have now started to bloom and will keep up the performance until April next. The flowers are very small, but so numerous that the border in which they grow is one mass of pink when in full bloom.

Books

Saunders has given us another of his inimitable works. This one is about the Sierra Madre mountains, which we know as the Coast range, extending from the Mexican border as far north as Santa Barbara. Every section has its own appellation, but the range is one and the same. Well, if you want to know something about these mountains that you never heard of before, and if the Plant and Animal life found within their range, get the book and read for yourself.

Not the least interesting about the Animal life are the quaint characters of the Genus, Homo. Nomads, Iconoclasts, Hermits, literate and illiterate Philosophers; a medley of men, and a few women whom Saunders interviewed while touring those wild sections of the state, and he has given to us one of the most delightful stories ever written. And the beauty of the work is in the fact ,that it is Fact, and not Fiction

"The Garden That I Love," is an old book written by Alfred Austin years ago. My copy bears the imprint of 1905, by the Blacks of London.

Now Austin was Poet Laurete of England while he lived, and this is one of the productions of his pen. It is one of that sort of books which one reads, and re-reads with keen delight.

A quotation from the dedication of the book to some lady friends will show its literary character. "You will find much resemblance between flowers and human beings; for they, too, grow reserved under coldness or maltreatment, and respond with almost feminine alacrity to every sympathetic endeavor to apprehend them."

Keen wit, sharp repartee, delightful humor, and a small vein of love permeates the volume, yet it is not a Love Story.

And thus endeth the first installment of: Stray Thoughts.

P. D. BARNHART.

THE SAMUEL W. HELLER FLOWER PRIZE

The Samuel W. Heller Flower Prize is a cash prize of $250, which represents the interest on a fund of $5000 placed in trust with the Regents of the University of California by Walter S. Heller, in order to commemorate the great love which the late Mr. Samuel W. Heller had for flowers.

This prize is to be awarded to the flower showing preeminent merit each year at a flower show in San Francisco. To simplify the selection of such a flower and to stimulate interest in raising new varieties, a different flower has been selected for competition each year. Next year the chrysanthemum has been chosen to compete for the prize. Not less than 50 flowers of one variety will be considered an exhibit, and flowers originating in California will be given an extra ten per cent score; those originating in other states, five per cent. This year California grown chrysanthemum blooms are being shipped East in carload lots, so it is not unreasonable to expect the eastern growers of the chrysanthemum to ship their flowers to the Fall Flower Show.

In 1925 the prize will be awarded to the best fifty blooms of decorative dahlias. The dahlia has already secured itself as a popular San Francisco flower, and the exhibit at that time may be expected to eclipse all other dahlia exhibits. For 1926 the rose has been selected. As several new roses have been originated in California within recent years, one may expect to see their production stimulated by the offering of this prize.

The rules governing the judging of the specific flowers will be those used by the associations best representing the flower in question. If the flowers exhibited do not score at least 90 points the prize will not be awarded, but the accrued interest of the fund will be used as a scholarship in the Division of Landscape Gardening and Floriculture of the University of California.

Why not send a subscription to California Garden for a Christmas present?. $1.00 per year.

A garden paper for garden folks. California Garden, $1.00 per year.

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The Nov. & Dec. Gardens

THE FLOWER GARDEN

By Mary Matthews.

Probably with the lack of rain the most important thing thus far this month is irrigation. The weather is cool enough most of the time, so that this can be done conveniently in the day time and when you do it, do it thoroughly—don't just sprinkle but where water is needed let it soak into the ground to some depth—personally I always prefer overhead watering, let it imitate nature, and come down in a gentle shower until your ground is well watered. Now that our gardens seem in many instances, to be reverting to the old fashioned hardy order a little advice conned here and there may not be amiss. To maintain a really successful hardy garden or border, strong growing subjects should be taken up and separated frequently, Boetonias, Hardy Asters, Artemesios, Rudbeckia, Golden Glow and species of similar habit should be divided every second year and replanted in freshly enriched soil, well decayed manure if you can get it, if not bone meal does well. Iris "those with Rhizomes", Oriental Poppies, Shasta Daises, Hemerocallis, Hardy Chrysanthemums, Veronicas and many others grown here every third year, some of the smaller kinds as often as they require it. The majority of early flowering perennials produce their new growth from a compact crown, so can remain for some time without dividing. The stronger growing sorts, usually late summer and fall blooming, make numerous side growths from the old crown which usually dies away. A strong side growth will give, if carefully moved, larger and finer flowers than if the entire clump had been used. In the preparation of your beds or borders dig the soil to some depth and pulverize it well and add your manure and bone meal. The selection of varieties of course will depend on location, individual taste and often what you have on hand, it is better though to plant a number of a few kinds than one or two of a large list. Select varieties that will flower at various seasons, making your garden attractive at all times. With us there is always some one thing that can be planted to suit the various seasons. During the winter and spring months the hardy garden should be cutlivated frequently to abolish weeds, and also to provide good growing conditions. Old flower stems should be cut at the ground, cutting out old stems will often

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THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

As is so often the case, we get our most trying plant weather in October, November and December, particularly when the rains are late in coming, and this month has been particularly so, an almost continuous desert air, accompanied by cloudless days and a hot sun, up to the present day, 20th inst., at least. (I am getting more careful about dates, as last month I sort of forecast rain, but I am not taking any chances this month.)

Weather like the last couple of weeks calls for very careful handling of young plants, particularly those you are just setting out. Do not depend on a surface wetting, but have your ground well soaked to a depth of one or two feet, then allow to dry enough so that it separates nicely to the action of the hoe or rake. Set plants firmly in the ground a little deeper than they have been in the box or seed bed, being sure not to let the ground dry out around them. If you have soaked your ground well, as described above a spraying when the sun is not strong will probably be sufficient or a quick running of the water through furrows close to the plants, followed by cultivation is the more thorough and safer way.

At this time of year it is usually better to water early in the day, as the application of water in the evening, added to the cold air during the night, is not conducive ot growth. During such weather as the present and indeed at any time when the sun is warm, it is a great help when setting out young plants to have a few pieces of broken shingle to put in the ground on the sunny side of the young plant for a few days after setting out, otherwise such a combination of hot sun and dry air as we have at present will probably be fatal to a large number of your plants, unless you use some means of shading them for a few days.

In the vegetable garden this month it is the same routine as in October, continue the planting of all the hardy roots and vegetables. A good supply of thrifty herb plants such as sage, thyme, mint, tarragon, parsley, etc., are a great addition to the garden and very much welcomed by the housekeeper, in fact, a little proper flavoring often makes the difference between a palatable meal and an insipid one.

Strawberry plants and rhubarb roots are very much in season now and Broad Windsor

Continued on page 12

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EDITORIALLY

We are reproducing the following extract from an article in a recent issue of the New York Times because we think it presents one of those queer anomalies that continually enliven our public life through individual administration. A few years ago we were interested in the development of the grounds in a semi-public institution, in fact we undertook the planting and care of a small section, and with a willing assistant transformed a sand heap into a near garden, our pride in which only lasted a few days for the head of all the grounds swooped down upon it one morning, when it was unguarded, and carted off all the growing things to plant in a new plot of his own, and our complaints were met with smiles and the remark, "Oh, that is just like the old pirate, he always uproots the last garden to plant a new one". We have a lot of pirates in our service.

It is to laugh, No! to cry, to think of the huge park developments all over the country and the general awakening to the real place in life of flowers and such, being paralleled by New York giving up its greenhouses for want of a few dollars. It would seem the better and wiser way to charge a small entrance fee for upkeep, and here is where a Floral Association can do splendid work, build up and maintain a great garden, self-supporting and yet available to the public at small fee. SUCH THE SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION SHOULD AND MUST HAVE.

Central Park's $200,000 greenhouses opposite the new Fifth Avenue Hospital and Heckscher Foundation at 105th Street may have to close down for lack of gardeners, fears Francis D. Gallatin, Park Commissioner.

"Central Park in 1917 had seventy-one gardeners, but is now allowed only twenty-five," said Commissioner Gallatin. "Of this twenty-five the greenhouses require thirteen. Four or five are used as foremen. This leaves a working force for the rest of the city or seven or eight. During vacations those past this surplus virtually disappear.

"Meanwhile, with our present policy of restoring and creating small parks, our work is constantly being added to. Yet annually we have been asking for more men, and naturally finding funds not available.

"The Department of Parks as a whole has been undermanned for several years. The administrative department had thirty-nine in 1917. It has nineteen now. The allowance of "labor-days' has been cut from 130,000 a year to 100,000. Climbers and pruners have been reduced to 30 per cent. There are scores of young trees we are seting out for coming generations that we haven't the men to water and cultivate them so they will thrive.

"Something apparently will soon have to go, and it begins to look like the greenhouses.

"Personally, and as Commissioner, I would rather do anything to meet the situation than shut down the Central Park greenhouses after being there pracitically the last twenty-five years. But, as one can see, the cry is gardeners, and there are no gardeners.

"The new small parks are meeting wtih an appreciative reception from their communities, so much so that other communities are pressing us to do as well by them. I don't know how long the greenhouses can withstand the competition for gardeners and other budgetary allowances. When one gardener goes, they might as well all go, and the greenhouses will be denuded of their palms, coffee trees orchids and other tropical exhibits, and turned into a mere storehouse where potted plants are prepared for planting outside.

"In my mind, of course, the greenhouses seem worth whatever they might cost to be retained. They are justified, as I see it, by the attendance, particularly on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The lawns on the Fifth Avenue side of them are often filled with people coming out or waiting to get in. The visitors flow through the houses in a solid stream pretty much from the time the doors are opening till they are closed. They are people who come a long way, many of them. Many by their actions indicate they are impelled by a hunger for the sight and smell of flowers and growing things. A great many of them, we judge, are denied flowers at home. The only place they get them seems to be at the greenhouses."

Established in 1899

Commissioner Gallatin recalled that the gheenhouses in Central Park were established in 1899 at a cost of $55,000, but remarked

it probably would take about four times that amount to replace and stock them as they stand. He doubted if the department could replace at all some of the specimens like the towering date palm from the Canary Islands set out as a three-foot shoot at the 1899 opening, or the picturesque screw pine from New Guinea, also home-grown.

These native products suggested to the Commissioner that though the bulk of the floral exhibits were exotics, there was not a leaf, stalk or trunk but had been planted and brought to maturity under Central Park glass by Central Park gardeners. He thought this fact added a sentimental interest to the property which might be included with its other assets in consideration of what would be the total loss if the whole were junked.

Commissioner Gallatin also felt the public would miss the annual flower shows. Beginning with the Chrysanthemum Show, which opens this year the middle of next month and extends into mid-December, shows are conducted until Easter.

We have received through the mails a clipped article from the October California Garden marked for errors in punctuation, etc., it looks like the picture of a rainstorm, and there is a comment in pencil which says, "Fire your proofreader." Perhaps you have heard of the story of the two boys, one eating an apple the other looking on, the latter says "Oh, give me the core," and the other replies, "Can't, there aint' going to be any core." That is the case with the Garden, it has no proofreader to fire. That October issue was perpetrated by the Editor off his own bat, that is, he overlooked the copy, read the proof and made up the dummy, and he does not know anything about punctuation, he writes and reads as he talks, starts and keeps on till he has to take a breath and then goes at it again.

We are moved to quote from a recent letter from one of the most valued of the Garden contributors who says, "For pure unadulterated selfishness and ingratitude of the most pronounced character, the subscribers and the readers of The Garden are in a class by themselves, yet my brother and I am one of the number. To be sure, we pay the wonderful sum of a dollar a year and read it from cover to cover with as much complacence as though we paid full value for what we read. We let you sweat blood in an endeavor to give us something worth while, and I suspect that no one ever so much as says 'thank you' for the splendid work you are doing."

We are not complaining, lots of folks say lots of nice things, and we would not sweat blood or anything else if we did not kind of like it, but we must serve notice that we are not vitally concerned about anything in California Garden except that it shall render real service to real gardeners, however, if there is a proofreader who wishes to improve his particular side of the Garden pages and will serve for the same wages as the Editor, he can have a job at any time, the sooner the better.

NOVEMBER AFTERNOON MEETING

On November 6th, in the afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30 o'clock, all members of the Association were asked to come and meet charter members and past officers, notice having been sent to all of those with whom the Association Secretary could get into touch, that their presence was most cordially desired—of course there were many who could not attend for various reasons, but those who could come expressed themselves as having enjoyed one of the most entertaining "afternoons" ever given by the Association. Probably the ones who did the most towards the entertainment were the house committee, who had worked for days getting things in order, furniture, rugs, electric lighting, kitchen supplies, had all been purchased, after much consideration as to what was most suitable and what could be afforded. They can rest assured that every one approved of what had been done. Mrs. Greer called the meeting to order and then saying Mr. Robinson could not fill two places at the same time, having been a past officer and now president. Mrs. Greer demonstrated that she could supervise in two places, for while carrying on the duties of chairman, she kept an eye on the tea kettle. Before the business of the meeting was taken up the company was regaled with choice music on the harp by Miss Thompson, a new comer in our midst. Miss Thompson charmed all with the beautiful selections she gave at this time and during the afternoon.

Mr. Ernest White gave interesting selections from an old book of minutes and records. This book showed that the society was organized in 1906; the first flower show in 1907, and I think the first number of California Garden appeared in 1909. The success and failure of the first shows were dwelt upon, also the steady growth of the Association till now, being one of the largest, if not the largest organization of the kind in the southwest. Mr. Robinson making a strong plea for more home members—we have somewhere in the neighborhood of 400 in city and county, the balance of them being distributed all over the country. The question of a library for the home was discussed, and the question as to what disposition had been made of the books donated by Mrs. Cook from her husband's library, Mr. Cook having always taken a warm interest in the Association.

Tea and cakes were served, the new furnishings inspected and approved. A social

hour followed, terminating only when the call for "lights out" came.

MARY A. MATTHEWS,
Secretary.

CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

On the afternoon of Oct. 27-28th the Floral Association held its second annual Chrysanthemum Show in the Association home. This show was well attended, probably about 900 in the two days. No admittance fee was charged, the Association wishing to encourage every one to again take up the growing of this once most popular flower, both with amateurs and commercial growers, and will enedavor each year to hold a show in which all can exhibit. The flowers were good, very fine in some cases, but much regret was expressed that so few entered their blooms. The very warm weather that preceded the show was in some measure to blame, but there were many good flowers in gardens around town that should have been there—next year let every one try for an unusually good showing. Many think that Dahlias have superseded Chrysanthemums, but this need not be the case, the Dahlias have passed their prime when the Chrysanthemums are just coming into full glory—in fact they "carry over" the season of bloom late into the fall.

The awards were as follows:

Best general display by persons employing professional gardeners, Mr. and Mrs. Erskine J. Campbell.

Best general display by amateur, first Miss Emily Mould; second, Mrs. Edward Strahlman.

Best display of Pompons, first, Mrs. Hans Marquardt; second Mrs. Eva Gray.

Best basket arrangement, first, Virginia May Robinson; second, Miss Jill Johnson.

Best one bloom, Mr. and Mrs. Erskine J. Campbell.

Best one bloom by amateur, Miss Emily Mould.

Honorable mention, Balboa Park, Rose Court Floral Co.

DAHLIA TREATMENT AT THIS SEASON

It is time now to take up our dahlias and put them away for the winter, in most cases the tops will have dried down pretty well. Cut them off to within ten or twelve inches from the ground, remove the stakes and tie labels securely to each clump, soak the ground well before attempting to dig them, but do not let it be soggy; then carefully remove as much soil as possible from the top, guard against damaging the tubers in so doing. If this is not done the weight of the top soil often breaks them, especially when they have long thin necks. Next dig round each clump with a fork, not nearer the stem than twelve or fourteen inches. Two people can do this most effiectually, one going to each side of the clump and when pried loose all round gently raise it together, this even leverage prevents wrecking the tubers greatly. I have already tried it and found it most successful.

It is also well to carefully examine the tubers and cut away any roots or portions of them that are damaged, using a sharp knife for the purpose. This prevents decay starting. Then dust the raw places with a little sulphur and air slacked lime, equally mixed. This treatement (i. e. the sulphur and air slacked lime) is also recommended for tubers that are not good keepers. I rather think of treating all mine to a dose of it, for if it is good for the weak it must also help the strong.

Most writers advise having as much soil as possible on the clumps, it acts as a support to them, it also helps to keep them air tight. They should be left in the open for a day or so, and in a shed under cover for a few days to get thoroughly dry before packing away. I always put mine in boxes, packing them in dry dirt and covering them at least two or three inches from the top of the subers. Some recommend sand or pine sawdust—never use redwood sawdust on any account. Personally I much prefer the dirt.

Eastern books usually only recommend covering small and delicate tubers and put sturdy ones away uncovered in cellers, but in our climate it is absolutely necessary to cover all or they will dry out too much to be of any use. Some also advise putting them away with the stems down for safe drainage, as the stem is hollow, but that we cannot do here because it is necessary to leave longer stems than they advise to prevent the crown from drying out. Many ask if they can be left in the ground. The answer is, only when you have light sandy soil and very good drainage, even then it is not advisable because they start growing much too early and wear themselves out before their season, of course this is all right if people want very early blooms, providing the drainage conditions are satisfactory.

EMILY T. MOULD.

November, 1923.

THE GRAY GOOSE SAYS

Many Mesembryanthemums are creepers. One with tiny white flowers blooms all the year. Another often seen here, called "purple moss" by some, is hidden wtih flowers in the Spring. Its middle name should be "Charity", for it will cover even a pile of old tin cans. To fully appreciate its beauty one should see it blooming over a large area.

Once we saw a hillside about two hundred feet high by one hundred wide. From base to crest the hill was one magnificent blossom, glistening and rippling with all the chromatic notes of lavender and orchid. The sunbeams

touched it with joy, and it responded in an estacy of color. The only thing to which that wealth of color can be compared is San Diego bay, when a sunset turns the water into glowing fire opals.

If every rocky bank, bare hillside and naked grade cut, in our town, was covered with this plant—oh!—when springtime comes gentle Annie, the glory of its blooming would shine far out to sea.

OUR CHRISTMAS FLOWER

The Poinsettia

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FLOWER GARDEN

Con'd from Pge. 5

induce a second crop of bloom. The Delphiniums, for instance, also many of the hardy asters, and while they will not be as handsome as the first bloom they often fill out in the garden where color is needed—also many should be kept cut on account of seeding too freely. Gaillardias, if allowed to seed, will often fill the whole garden with little seedlings and in some cases become a nuisance. To stock your garden, if you want one quickly, buy plants from your florist; if you are willing to wait a season, put in seeds in flats now; many will give results next summer and all will bloom in two seasons, if transplanted carefully from seedlings in to flats, and they are spaced about one inch apart the first time and then again when larger they will be better plants and you will have more of them than if bought in clumps.

To add still more to the attractiveness of your flower borders groups of low growing bulbs can be interspersed here and there, with us Sparaxis, Ixias, Tritonia, Tritteleria, Freesias can all be put in and will bloom and disappear before the majority of the perennials have made full growth. These mentioned above seem to not mind the summer irrigation which must of necessity take place. Also migonnette (to the front, Clarkia and Candytuft, though they are annuals, can also be used, and when through blooming can be pulled out.

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

The United States Civil Service Commission announces the following open competitive examination:

Nurseryman

Receipt of application will close December 11. The examination is to fill a vacancy in the Indian Service, for duty at the Western Navajo Indian School, Arizona, at an entrance salary of $900 a year, plus the increase of $20 a month granted by Congress, and vacancies in positions requiring similar qualifications.

Applicants must have had at least two years' experience in the propogation and care of fruit trees. Additional credit will be given for experience in the propagation of forest trees and in landscape gardening.

Competitors will not be required to report for examination at any place, but will be rated on their physical ability, and training and experience.

Why not send a subscription to California Garden for a Christmas present?. $1.00 per year.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

By Alfred D. Robinson.

So many inquiries are coming in relative to the care of the tubers of tuberous Begonias at this time that I am impelled to tell of my experience rather than to give advice. For a good ripe tuber it is necessary that the top growth, that is all but the tuber, shall slough off naturally by ripening and not be allowed just to dry up, therefore though all blooms may be over, still a moist not wet condition should be held, and this applies throughout the dormant period, for fully as many tubers are lost by drying up as by wet rot. A pot is the most deceiving receptacle yet devised by man, it can be wet in one place and dry in another in endless combinations and once the soil in a pot has thoroughly dried the soil content shrinks away from the edges and water poured on the top may run down the sides without wetting the center, this is peculiarly the case with soil lacking in humus content, which is tantamount to saying our natural soil. Unless exposed to the rain the advice given last month to place pots on their sides is poor advice as then they certainly will dry out, as I found last year losing practically all of some choice cuttings, whereas cuttings taken much later and left in a bench which was always moist came finely this spring. I am placing tubers in pots under a bench, upright not on their sides, under a cloth house and have already watered them many times and expect to do so throughout the winter whenever they appear dry. I have there also all the plants which were in the ground or benches packed tight together in flats with the earth that dug with them and these will be treated the same.

The exceptionally fine weather extending into our normal fall condition has caused some tubers that had ripened to start up again, this is to be deplored rather than hailed as a miracle, because those poor tubers have simply been fooled and will get theirs when the inevitable lower temperatures come, and then next season will be lacking just so much energy. I have several of these deluded ones, so don't tell me about yours.

All this matter of care of tuberous Begonias was gone into in a lathhouse article last month, but there appear to be some who did not read it then, hence these reiterated but not guaranteed instructions.

Get ready to plant roses now. Plant lots of them. Plant some of the new ones but don't neglect the old standbys.

Now is the time to think and act for the rose show next spring.

A garden paper for garden folks. California Garden, $1.00 per year.

BALBOA PARK NOTES

By John G. Morley, City Park Supt.

In the article for this issue of the magazine, I take pleasure in stating to our readers that the reconstruction of the Conservatory Building in Balboa Park has been completed. The rearrangement of the planting, etc. under an entirely different plan was finished the first week in October, and for the past several weeks has been reopened to the public.

The conservatory had always been one of the most interesting features of Balboa Park during the Exposition days, and until several months ago, when it had to be closed for the reasons heretofore mentioned.

This was one of the buildings to be restored under the program of the Restoration Commission with the funds subscribed to restore the main buildings of the former Exposition, however, when the work on the conservatory was commenced, the funds were so limited that practically one-half the work had to be completed from the funds of the Park Department, necessitating strict economy in the finances of the department to be able to complete this important feature of the system.

In removing some of the large plams from the building, it was found no drainage had previously been provided and the subsoil resembled a quagmire. This condition has been overcome by a drainage system. A new hot water system for heating has been put in,—the outside walls four feet high, built of concrete in place of the former wood construction, and concrete foundations for all supporting posts. The replanting plan resembles a garden, and on the sides of the house the plant benches, instead of being continuous, are divided in sections with a rockery planted with ferns and other choice plants between the divisions. This change has proved very effective and harmonizes with the garden plan of the main portion of the conservatory. The arrangement of the planting gives the visitor when entering the conservatory, an extended and expansive perspective of palms, ferns, dracenas, and other exotics, and when passing along the walks, the visitor is also able to observe the beauty and individuality of the many varieties of plants utilized in the new scheme of improvement.

In conjunction with the conservatory, it was hoped that the Botanical Building would also be repaired and the planting rearranged, but because of financial reasons, this work has been postponed until 1924.

The popularity of these two features of the Park has proved to be one of its greatest attractions, and with the addition from time to time of other very choice tropical and exotic plants, and possibly the renewal at an early period of seasonal displays of choice flowering plants, bulbs and orchids, this effort of the Board of Park Commissioners will keep Balboa Park in the forefront of civic beauty.

The conservatory contains some very fine plants, among which are some very fine specimens of palms, notably the Areca Lutesceus, one of the choicest, and a very rare species. There are several very fine specimens in the conservatory. It is not a single stem palm, but produces offshoots or suckers which grow up around the main stem producing a beautiful and graceful effect. It is a native of the island of Mauritius, where it attains a height of thirty feet or more. The true name of this palm is Chrysalidocarpus Lutesceus, however the common or trade name, Areca Lutesceus, is much easier of pronunciation and is more generally used.

Rhopalostylis Spaida (correct name) commonly called Areca Spadia, a native of New Zealand,—one plant is in the conservatory and several fine plants in the Botanical Building. This palm ,though susceptible to frost, thrives well if planted out of doors in a shady and protected situation.

Chamaedora Elatior, a very graceful palm from southern Mexico, is the tallest growing of the Chamaedoras, with long, slender, canelike stems. The young plants of the Chamaedoras are very fine for decorative puporses and the varieties are more extensive than any other palm.

Cocos Waddeliana, a native of Brazil, the most beautiful and graceful of all the small palms, and many thousands are grown for use in fern dishes and for florists use. For conservatory planting they produce a charming effect, especially when growing among maiden hair ferns.

Howea Belmoriana and Howea Fosteriana are two choice palms from Lord Howe's Island, for which they are named. The trade name for them is Kentia. These palms are grown more extensively for general decorative purposes than any other verieties, as they have proved to be the most useful for greenhouse planting out of doors in San Diego in sheltered locations.

Cycas Revoluta, the Sago Palm, is a native of Java. This palm is extensively planted out of doors in Southern California and Florida, and also extensively grown in greenhouses. The foliage under glass is much more graceful than when grown outside. The seeds are edible and they ripen in Florida. I do not know of any having ripened in California. The pith of the trunk is utilized in its native state for making sago by the inhabitants, hence the reason it is called the sago palm.

Phoenix Roebilenii is a native of the Laos region of Indo China and has the most graceful foliage of all the Phoenix palms. It is also recognized as being more tender than any other and will not withstand much frost.

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During the heavy frosts in San iDego in the winter of 1913, many that were planted in gardens and lathhouses were killed or seriously damaged. There are several fine specimens in the conservatory. They are among the best decorative plants for all purposes for florists use and many thousands are grown for that purpose.

A continuation of this article will be included in next month's magazine.

WEATHER FORECASTING HAS LONG AND VARIED CAREER

In connection with the modern system of weather forecasting, it is interesting to know its origin and history. Scientific weather forecasts depend upon the rapid collection of the reports of meteorological observations taken at places scattered over a wide expanse of territory. This process was not, of course possible before the invention of the electric telegraph, says the United States Department of Agriculture.

The earliest experiments in forecasting with the aid of telegraphic reports were probably those of Prof. Joseph Henry, of the Smithsonian Institution, made in 1849. The first national forecasting service, however, was established in France in 1855, and was the result of an episode of the Crimean War. In November, 1854, a severe storm did much damage to the French and British warships in the Black Sea. The French astronomer, Le Verrier, director of the Observatory of Paris, made a study of this storm and came to the conclusion that, with the aid of telegraphic reports, its eastward progress across Europe might have been predicted so that the disaster to the ships could have been averted. This idea led to the foundation of the French meteorological service.

In this country the establishment of a similar service was frequently recommended by scientific authorities, including the famous Lieutenant Maury and Dr. I. A. Lapham, of Wisconsin, and finally, in 1869, an experimental service was established in the Cincinnati Observatory by the late Prof. Cleveland Abbe, with the aid of the Western Union Telegraph Co. Professor Abbe's experiments in weather forecasting were so successful that Congress was induced to establish a national service, one of the principal duties of which was forecasting the weather. This service was originally attached to the Signal Corps of the Army, but since the year 1890 it has been a branch of the Department of Agriculture.

All our advertising nurserymen carry roses, even if they don't say so, a hardware man does not advertise nails.

A garden paper for garden folks. California Garden, $1.00 per year.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Continued from page 5

beans can also go in. The seed of this bean being large and tough it will pay to soak it overnight, being sure that it is planted in moist soil.

I have been asked to say a word about asparagus, so as the time is amost right for setting out these roots it is apropos to give a little cultural information regarding them. Asparagus is one of our most delicious vegetables and is usually raised from two year old roots in order that you may have the plants ready for cutting in the shortest possible time. Set the plants or roots in furrows about ten inches to a foot deep, one foot apart in furrows, two feet apart, cover with two or three inches of soil and on top of that with three or four inches of well rotted manure thoroughly mixed with soil. If you mark your rows you can utilize most of the ground between them for quick growing vegteables during the first year, as your asparagus will not do much for the table the first season. In the fall all above ground should be cut away and burned to prevent spread of rust and also dropping of seed. The following year you should have a good crop during the spring and summer repeating the cutting away and burning process as before. One of the most popular varieties is Palmetto, the sprouts are green and of delicious flavor. Argentenil is another good variety. It takes from 50 to 100 plants to make a bed large enough for family use.

Consult the Rose Annual in the Library at the Floral Home, Balboa Park, and there are other books on roses there.

Roses, Roses, Roses, plant now.

THE LATHHOUSE

A Series by Alfred D. Robinson.

The last number left off in the middle of a list of Rexes and as I hate lists, even when made by myself, I shall now get the rest of this one off my mind. Beside those mentioned should be named, Modesty, a small round leaved sort. dark green heavily spotted with silver and taking a rosy overglow in a strong light, this makes a splendid specimen and should be included in all collections. Then there is Midnight, the darkest of all, very dark grey almost black with spots like a heavy stippling, its habit is stiff and awkward, and Pearl, the lightest Commercial variety, a self-colored light silver which in contrast to Midnight, grows up straight and stiff, sprawls all over the place, it is a hard kind to make into a good specimen and seldom has many perfect leaves at a time. I have a seedling of 1921 that is lighter than Pearl, in fact quite milky and has a good habit, this I have named Moonbean. Queen of Hanover is quite distinctive, having a round rough leaf with silver center on dark green field thickly haired, these hairs are pink and the young leaves are charmingly pink as are the stems, this makes large specimens well covered with leaves and good shape. Though every one knows Lesoudsii, Lord Palmerston, Magnifica, Roi Ferd Major and Emeraud they are of the best. A very colorful one that is hard to grow well is Louise Closson, pink blotched on dull black but there is a relative named Lucy Closson that is said to be hardier, my experience would lead me to believe that this variety needs some heat. An old kind that is getting quite scarce is Fireflush, a moss green fished with crimson, the effect being made by crimson hairs.

I have mentioned seedlings so will deal with the subject of raising Rexes from seed, from my abysmal ignorance. During the past four years I have raised a hundred or more Rexes from seed and find a pleasing and astonishing variation, in fact very few come like the parent, I say parent advisedly, because I have done no hybridising by hand which ever resulted in a fertile pod. Here seems a good place to mention that the Rexes make lots of pods but mature very few. I have found good seed on the following varieties in proportion as named Losoudsii, Roi Fer Major, Robert George, Pearl, Mrs. Moon and Emperor and none from any other that proved fertile. I have never seen a bloom on Bronze King or any other Helix except Count Erdody and Captain Nemo and those for the first time this year and I am beginning to have a suspicion that they should be put in glasshouses for seed whenever fall weather starts, this year it has not started yet, November 18. The technic for growing the seed is the same as for any other begonia, but the Rexes are very slow both in germination and after growth. This year Rex seed sown at the same time as tuberous, with even more attention, is only now making a character leaf not over an inch in diameter while the tuberous have gone through the whole life history of growth, bloom, seed and ripened tuber. This slow development is the chief stumbling block as it gives a noble opportunity to every devilment that attacks begonia seedlings, the chief being a scum growth on the soil. I have combatted this with sulphur and everything else that has been suggested, but I consider the scum has won the event and now I replant in fresh soil whenever the enemy comes in sight. The percentage of Rex seedlings that I have brought to good plants is pathetically small but those that have come are a real reward. I have spoken of Moonbeam and will mention some others because they all came from one pod of Lesoudsii. In contrast to light Moonbeam was a very dark one named Velours because the sheen on its leaves and texture is velvety, more so than any other kind, it is very dark and rich with rather long leaves and has so far a disappointing habit. A huge leaved one resembling Roi Ferd Major, but with more dark fingers running into the grey zone has been called Poincare, it gets there, it has splendid habits and promises to be larger than any other, then a very small one came, a big leaf on which is not over two inches, it is a grey with narrow even dark border. The last one I shall introduce here I call O'Diggins, it is ruddy all through, the top of leaf is a greeny bronze and the underside light crimson, the leaf is not thick and the light through it is delightful, it is very distinctive. Before I have mentioned that Mrs. Waite was raising Rexes from seed when I was merely raising Cain, so far as Begonias were concerned, and she has had some very choice ones. The equipment for this job is merely a box with a glass over it that can be moved around in and out of the sun and warmth, some leaf mould and a heap of patience. One other thing, some good seed, and that is hard to get, though lots of catalogues offer it for twenty-five cents a package, twenty-five dollars would be a fairer price, from my experience as a gatherer.

There is no question but that Rexes are most effective as specimen plants in some receptacle that can be placed to advantage as the lighting on them is vital. Hanging baskets are good, but have two bad drawbacks, one the fact that they must be practically remade every year, the other that the wires for suspension continually damage the leaves and then proper watering is a problem. Redwood boxes are proving to the liking of Rexes and

these I have placed on pedestals of different heights. Half inch lumber is sufficiently strong and if the boxes are given a good taper and not made more than eight inches deep they look well. No other lumber will stand. The general box I have made a foot square tapering to eight inches, but I am experimenting with more ornamental ones of sexagon shape and quite large which I suspend in chains. Rexes don't need depth of soil to grow, but do want surface room which also provides the dampness under the leaves so vital to their keeping in condition.

Hitherto I have regarded it as waste of time to try and raise Rexes from leaf cuttings at this time of year, but this season it seemed such a shame to let so much good material go to waste and the weather was so fine that I have put in a good many of the choicer ones and shall follow with all I can accommodate for these leaves would go in the winter any how and if any strike those will be all to the good. Leaf cuttings are made of the stem with a circular piece of the leaf left on and where the leaf is large and old triangle pieces containing a stout rib may be used. These are placed in sand and kept damp. I have them in a bench under canvas under a shallow glass frame which can be moved to regulate air, etc. I have found that common faults in this practice are to leave too long a stem which makes a weedy plant and the use of too fresh or rather young leaves. The old leaves with robust ribs are the ones wanted and brown edges and other signs of age are no detriment. In removing leaves from a plant never cut the stem near the base but well up and leave the other part to drop off naturally, otherwise bleeding may be severe.

Rexes like a rather loose soil and not too fine, but leaf mould straight is apt to be too light. One-third each of leaf mould, cow manure and coarse sand is ideal. As a fertilizer they appreciate bone meal which can be dusted into the potting soil, but the stimulating fertilizer salts are dangerous. Weak ammonia water is good, too, when they are in vigorous growth.

Though the Rexes retain some leaves through the winter, they should have a resting period and they are benefitted by being kept half dry during this time.

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Native Shrubs in San Diego County Mountain District

Kate S. Williams, Santa Ysabel.

So much has been written of our wonderful oaks, our stately pines and other tree growth by famous writers, that the shrubs which form the even more unique elfin forest of our southland, have been relegated to the back ground, or even been passed by as only an accessory to the scenery of our wonderful mountain district.

With the advent of the tourist, and the completion of our chain of paved highways, it is expedient to have it understood, that our native shrubbery plays a very important part in the great plan of creation, and occupies one of the most important values in conservation of our great mountain watershed. Were it not for our densely wooded mountains, with the aid of the lovely shrub, vine and plant life, the torrential rains which fall in the mountain sections would rush down upon the low land, flooding and devastating all before it. Held and conserved as it is, by the roots and undergrowth it is carried slowly into the proper channels, diverted into the dams and reservoirs; later to be used in irrigation for fertile fields and lovely gardens and parks on the coast.

To destroy this shrubbery and undergrowth is little less than criminal, but this past summer has been one horrible holicast of flames, from coast to inland forests, fires have raged for weeks, destroying untold values in timber and watersheds, blotting out some of the most wonderful scenery that California boasts. "A fool at one end and a cigarette at the other," is in most cases responsible. Campfires left by careless tourists, or picnickers, to smoulder and later to be fanned into life by the wind, spreading and devouring all before its wild race. In some rare cases lightning has been known to start forest fires, whatever the cause the effect is terrible, leaving death and black ruin in its path. Could city people realize the gravity of the case, they would be more interested and do all within their power to carry on the slogan: Conserve the watersheds.

Some of the native shrubs are very beautiful and marvelous in bloom, some have medicinal value, and others have wood which can be used in fine arts and carving; aside from these qualities nearly all can be readily transplanted and in view of the fact that much of

GLAD TIDINGS

Grow Glads and begin planting now. I will gladly tell you how you can begin your plantings in November and by consecutive plantings have that "Queen of the Garden" the Gladiolus bloom for you the year 'round. The following carefully made up collections contain only bulbs of good blooming size, each collection is absolutely different.

Collection 1 Thirty bulbs for $1.00, six each of five good standard varieties.

Collection 2 Twenty bulbs for $2.00, four each of five very desirable varieties.

Collection 3 Twenty-four bulbs for $5.00, four each of six of the more recent prominent varieties.

If you wish to select your own, any reliable seed house in San Diego can furnish you these and many other varieties from my stock.

Remittance with order please, or bulbs sent C. O. D.

All bulbs sent parcels post prepaid anywhere in the U. S.

RALPH F. CUSHMAN

GROWER OF GLADIOLI

BOX 5-A *Point Loma, California*

our native undergrowth is fast disappearing under the encroachment of civilization and forest fires, it would seem that those who love and enjoy our native shrubs should plant and cultivate some of the many varieties. The boughten shrubs are expensive, but our native shrubs are growing near the highways or can be found in the byways; with care, can be moved, any time in the fall or winter. Small plants are preferable and soon make a brave showing and respond to care, wonderfully. Azalea occidentalis is the native deciduous Azalea. It is a superb shrub worthy of any garden. It demands semi-shade, leaf mould and wet feet. Flowers creamy white often tinged with pink and yellow markings —very fragrant and a wonderful cut flower. One of the rare sights of the mountains is Azalea Canyon on the north peak of the Cuyamacas, or the plant can be found in the Volcan Canyon in May, when these rare and beautiful plants are in full bloom. The masses of fragrant blossoms are a wonderful sight to behold and well worth the trip to the back country.

Ceanothus, wild lilac. This genus comprises a large assortment of native shrub as well as some hybrids. The wild Ceanothus are shrubs of great merit. They are not only good garden shrubs, but capable of holding their own when planted in dry or rough places to cover and ornament. Of all California shrubs they are best adapted to beautifying the rough dry outer grounds of a place. To have them at their best they should be pruned heavily, and at intervals cut to the ground to force new branches. With heavy pruning, after flowering, they will give wonderful masses of bloom. They are at their best in a sunny situation.

There are nearly a dozen different varieties all worthy of trial, ranging in color from blue to pale blue, white and mauve shades, all are lovely and worthy of trial. Interrimus is a gloriously beautiful shrub with great panicles bourne above the foliage varying from white through light blue to deep blue. All the colors are exquisitely lovely, and to the native Californian our native lilac is one of our best-loved shrubs, blooming in the early spring it is our harbinger of spring. The mountain sides burst into glorious blue billows, where only a few hours before was only a green covering. The exquisite blooms are so fragile, that it is impossible to use them as cut flowers and it seems like vandalism to see the beautiful branches torn off by sightseers, only to wither in a few moments. The foliage is much prized by the cattlemen for food for brush range, the glacous seed pods are rich in protein. Old timers tell of wonderful cures effected on poison ivy sufferers by rubbing the crushed pods over the affected parts. The Indians and early settlers used the faggots which they brought down from the mountains on burros, for fences, binding them together with rawhide thongs. The root or burl is the most beautiful of all the California hardwood used in fine carving. The bee man hails the blossoming time of the wild lilac, with gladness, as the bees load up on the nectar secreted in the tiny blossoms and fill the hives with honey.

Carpenteria Californica is a superb evergreen shrub, with olive colored and shaped foliage, pure with large flowers very much like mock orange. The shrub transplants readily and is fine in any garden.

Calycanthus occidentalis, The sweet scented shrub is a fine plant for shady and moist ground. All parts of the plant are very fragrant and the large reddish flowers are quite pretty.

Chimiso, or Chemisal, is a plant that covers the mountain sides in the dryest places, and will grow where nothing else will sustain life. The leaves are like small pine needles and the broad panacles of white flowers in May are very decorative either on the bush or cut. It is one of the best bee feeds known. Quite a trade has sprung up in making canes from the stout young growth with the ornamental root attached as a head. Thousands of acres are covered with this, our best shrub for water conservation.

Manzanitas, Little Apple, are splendid shrubs for any garden. Their habit varies greatly. Some creep along the ground in mats from six inches to a foot high. Others form low mounds a few feet high, while still others make round headed bushes often six to ten feet high. The leaves are evergreen and pretty. The flowers are like heaths, small bells in white and pink in great numbers of clusters in early spring. The green berries, in clusters, while very young, before the seed becomes hard, makes a delicious jelly, the taste is similar to gooseberry jelly. The brown berry-like small apples are very ornamental, and were much used by early settlers as an acidulated drink for fevers. The wood is very fine grained, blood red, and one of our best hard woods used in fine wood carving. These shrubs move easily and are especially good to cover waste places. They prefer sun, but will grow in shade.

Oregon Grape, or Mahonia, is a very handsome woodland shrub. It is evergreen, has holly-like leaves, tinted red in winter. Flowers bright yellow followed by deep blue berries. The root is dug, and used medicinally. The shrub makes a fine ground cover and grows well under shade or large trees where other plants refuse to grow.

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